



PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040894-7413

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Toshiyuki KANAI et al.

Application No.: 10/569,793

Filed: February 27, 2006

For: STAPLE FORMING AND DRIVING
MACHINE

Confirmation No.: 6625

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner: Michelle Lopez

Commissioner for Patents
Customer Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), the above-identified Applicants cite the patents as shown on the enclosed PTO-1449, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy of the foreign patent listed on the attached Form PTO 1449 is provided.

These references were cited by the Examiner in a related international application pending before the Chinese Patent Office. A copy of the Office Action, dated September 14, 2007 is attached along with an English translation.

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Applicants respectfully request that these items be considered by the Examiner, and that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of these references by initialing and returning copies of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the next official action.

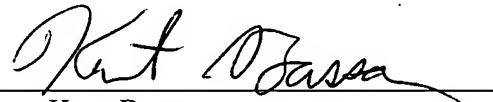
While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention or otherwise material to the patentability of this invention as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b) exists.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d); after the mailing of the first Office Action and after the mailing date of a final office action on the merits in the application. \$180 is believed to be due for this submission. If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deems a fee is due, please charge this fee and any other required fees to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

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Dated: November 16, 2007

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